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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT NO.

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SUBJECT VEB Kabelwerk Oberspree (KWO)
Production and Personnel

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A. VEB Kabelwerk Oberspree (KWO), Berlin-Oberschoeneweide1. Introduction

The Kabelwerk Oberspree (KWO) is situated at Berlin-Oberschoeneweide, Wilhelminenhofstrasse 76-77 (Tel. 630010 and 630646). Up to April 1952, it was under SAG Kabel; it was then handed back to German management and placed under VVB IKA.

2. Lay-out (see plan and key at the end of this report)

KWO occupies a large site, on which are a six-story and a three-story building and many workshops and halls. The main sections of KWO are copper works, wire works, heavy current cable works, telegraph cable works, rubber works, and metal pressing works.

3. Products of KWO

According to a KWO pamphlet, the main products of KWO include:

- (a) Copper works: Rolled Cu materials: round, 0 6.35-14 mm.; square cross-section up to 55 mm. sides; rectangular cross-section, breadth 14-100 mm., smallest width 5 mm. Copper wire to DIN (German industrial standards) 1766, 46431, 46433, 43141.
Hot rolled steel: wire, 0 14, 12, 10, 8 and 6 mm.; band, 40-50 mm., wide by 2.5 mm. thick, and 60 mm. wide by 3.5 mm. thick.

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- (b) Wire works: Varnished wire. Copper wires with glass fiber or other insulation. Switch wire. Installation leads. X-ray cable. Mining cable. Dredger cable.
- (c) Heavy current cable works: Masskabel. 3-lead cable, 1-10 KV; 3-coat cable, 15-30 KV. Special cables for potentials to 220 KV; pressure gas cable, 20-60 KV; oil cable, 30-220 KV; very high tension DC cable, up to 220 KV. Mine cable and under-water cable.
- (d) Telegraph cable works: All sorts of cable, including carrier frequency cable and 32-pair cable for carrier frequency and radio combined. Hf cable for receiver or transmitter cable use.
- (e) Rubber works: Specialty: acid- and lye- resistant equipment - tanks, filters, centrifuges, metal piping. Pressed hard and soft rubber parts.
- (f) Metal pressing works: Hot die-pressed parts of heavy and light metals, including steel. Precision pressed parts for turbines - e.g. complete pressed turbine blades.

Almost the whole of KWO's production goes directly to the USSR; a small amount goes indirectly to the USSR. Particular emphasis is placed at the moment on heavy cables, like mining and dredging cables.

4. Research and development work

- (a) Aluminum coverings. In 1951, KWO received from SAG Kabel Headquarters the task of developing an aluminum cable covering as a substitute for lead covering. The task came ultimately from the Russian Chief Administration for the Cable Industry, Glavkabel. The task was understood in KWO to reflect the USSR's shortage of lead. A press was ordered from the Ernst Thaelmann Works, Magdeburg. This arrived at the end of 1951. Work proceeded through 1952, using very pure aluminum (Reinst-aluminum). The production of cables with aluminum coverings went well: the reject rate was very low. At the moment, however, work on the further development of the use of the press is at a standstill because no punches are available; these must be worked from high quality steel. There is now no hope of getting any. The main difficulty is in the porosity.
- (b) Continuous vulcanization. Hitherto, cable has been vulcanized after it has been wound on drums. A process has been found, however, for the continuous vulcanization of cable as it is produced and before it is wound onto drums. KWO has not at the moment enough money available to introduce this new system into its own plant.

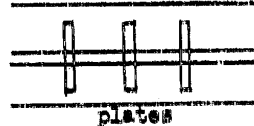
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- (c) Permag. This is a permagnetic iron powder from which the magnetic cores for loading coils can be pressed. It is a complete substitute for IG Ludwigshafen carbonyl iron. Permag was developed on the orders of SAG Kabel Headquarters, by ECK Bitterfield and KWO jointly. It is produced more cheaply and simply than carbonyl iron. 7 tons of Permag have already been produced and used.
- (d) Antenna cable. This cable, developed by KWO, is now being produced for 10....20 cms use. The USSR is the main customer. The cable is taken over by Promsyrioimport and its ultimate destination is not known in KWO. A small quantity also goes to the Sachsenwerk Radeberg for the Leningrad TV apparatus. A small alteration in the manufacture of this cable has recently been made: polystyrol plates are being used instead of trolitul bells. This improves the flexibility of the cable.



- (e) Telephone grooved cable (Fernsprechrillenkabel) is not now being produced as there is normally no demand for it in East Germany, and there are at the moment no orders on hand from the USSR.

B. The USSR and Russians in KWO

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5. (a) The cable industry in the USSR has made great advances since the war. Many machine shops are now completely modernised; largely with American and East German machinery. Thus, the firm Wetzel, Aschersleben, (later VVB ABUS) alone has supplied more than 100 modern twisting machines (Verseilmaschinen) since 1946, as reparations; a large number of these went to the USSR's cable industry.
- (b) The standard specifications now applied in the USSR and also applied by the Russians to KWO, are lower than those in use before and during the war, in that the permissible safety margins have been greatly reduced.
- (c) The leaders of Soviet cable firms appear to be very well grounded in the theory of their subject.
- (d) There are cable works in Moscow, Leningrad, Kuibyshev, Yaroslavl, Tallin, and Tbilisi. It is clear, however, that there are other works in the East of the USSR

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- (e) Research is not carried on in sections of the factories but in separate research institutes, subordinate to Glavkabel.

6. Russian personalities.

- (a) Ing. Isaak Kruglyy was Russian Chief Engineer in KWO from 1946-1949. [REDACTED]

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- (b) Ing. Polushkin (fnu) was his successor from 1949-1951. [REDACTED]

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- (c) Ing. Mints and Malkin (fnu) were in KWO from 1946-1948. [REDACTED]

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- (d) Ing. Pokrovskiy (fnu) from Sovkabel Leningrad, headed KWO's technical office from 1946-1949 [REDACTED]

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- (e) Ing. Yablokov (fnu) was Pokrovskiy's successor in 1949. [REDACTED]

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- (f) The "internationally known chemist" Klimenkov was in KWO for a short time after the war.

- (g) One Nikolaev (fnu) an employee of Promsyrimport, was an acceptance official in KWO for a long time up to the end of 1952. He was then replaced by one Smirnov (fnu), a machine construction engineer. [REDACTED]

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- (h) Just before Christmas 1952, a general and a civilian from USIQ (Administration of Soviet Property in Germany - Headquarters of all SAQs) visited KWO. They were interested in the possibility of producing cooling ventilators (Kühl-ventilatoren) for aircraft. The visitors, whose names were not learned, were aware that during the war KWO had produced such parts for the Heinkel works. They spoke of 20 cm. ventilators, the war-time dimensions, as too small. It appeared [REDACTED] that they were thinking of the possibilities of producing 40....50 cms parts. Nothing further has been heard in KWO of this matter.

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7. Complaints from the USSR.

Acceptance tests and inspections in KWO are very severe and, in 1952, KWO received complaints about less than 1% of its wares sent to the USSR. Even then, complaints centered around the packing and handling of the goods rather than their quality. Complaints come back to KWO through Promsyrimport or DIA (German trade organization); the customer in the

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USSR was thus not disclosed. It is remembered, however, that in the second half of 1952 a complaint about a delivery of Karotagekabel (?) was received from the Groznyy Petroleum Depot.

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1. [REDACTED] Comment. Possibly VEB Maschinenfabrik und Eisengiesserei
~~Aschersleben~~ VVB ABUS is meant.

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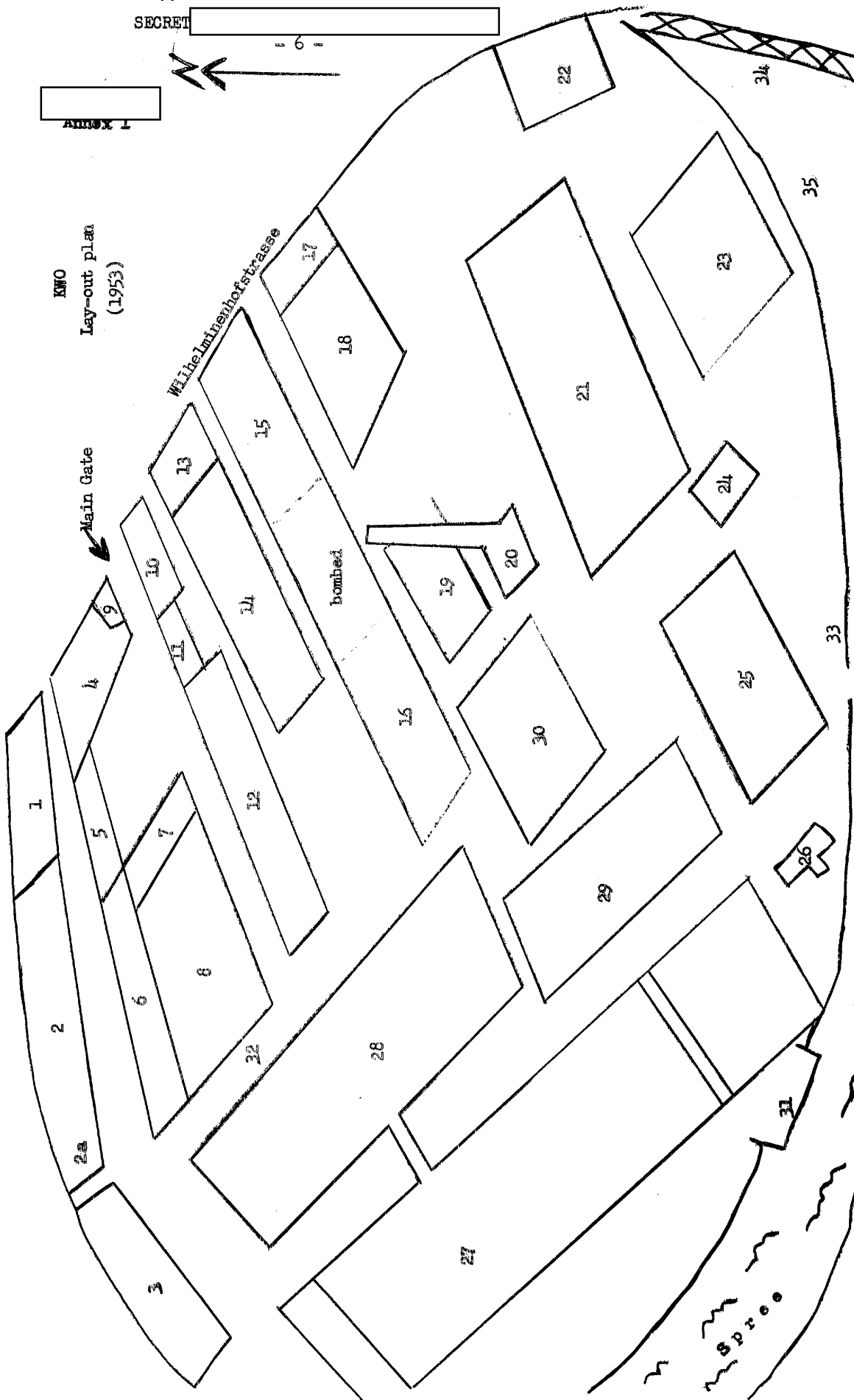
ANNEX I

KWO
Lay-out plan
(1953)

Main Gate

Wilhelmshofstrasse

bombed



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Key to plan of KWO

1. Canteen. Admin. German-Soviet Friendship Society rooms
2. Rubber coating section for all heavy cables.
- 2 a. Lab. of heavy current cable works.
3. EFEM and BEM (NTB-4 and NTB-1 respectively of SAG Kabel - independent of KWO). KWO electro-technical workshop is in a part of this building.
4. 3-story wire works. I floor: Verseil Abtg. II floor: Spinnerei. III floor: Fleckerei.
5. Connecting gallery.
6. 2-story building: Lab. and test section of wire works.
7. Office of heavy current cable works.
8. Heavy current cable works shops.
9. Entrance No. 2 and check office.
10. Doctor, baths, Trade Union, SED, employment office.
11. Unused connecting gallery.
12. 3-story varnished wire works. Ground floor: finished produce store; despatch; fire brigade. I & II: thin rubber connecting leads production. III: varnished wire works and lab.
13. Chemical and metal lab.
14. AFO (Akkumulatoren-Fabrik Oberspree - nothing to do with KWO) uses most of this. In other rooms being rebuilt KWO has a store, and the rubber sections conduct some production work.
15. Ground floor: design office. I: buying dept. II: "technical" admin. (library, postal services, office supplies, norms). III: loading coil factory. IV: telegraph lab. and experimental workshop. V: materials lab. and patents office. VI: apprentices' shop. The middle part of this building was burned out during the war.
16. Rubber works. Ground floor: Rubber lab. I: raw material store. II & III: hard rubber section; rubber pressing. IV: assembly. V & VI (one floor): tinning section.
17. Villa of the directorate.
18. Garden.
19. Part of rubber works.
20. Boiler house.
21. Pressing and rolling works shops.
22. Gas generating plant.
23. Sheds.
24. ?
25. Former aluminum works. Not functioning. Partly empty and partly used for stores, repair shops, etc.
26. Garages (?).
27. Former marine cable section. Destroyed in the war. Now partly rebuilt and used by telegraph cable works.
28. Rolling section and wire-drawing section workshops.
29. Telegraph cable works. IV floor: training section, Garnituren and telegraph instrument section (Über-träger und Verteiler der Telefon-zentrale). III: HF cable (Rillenkabel) manufacture. I & II: Spulerei, Besspinnung, Verseilung.
30. Mechanical workshops.
31. Former loading point for marine cable. Now unused.
32. Drum casing section.
33. Loading point - actually only used occasionally for taking in coal and drums.
34. Coal loading bridge.
35. Coal dump.

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